

### REMARKS

The Office Action of September 23, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3 and 8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action further notices that Claims 3 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten as suggested by the Office Action.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the instant rejections and objections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

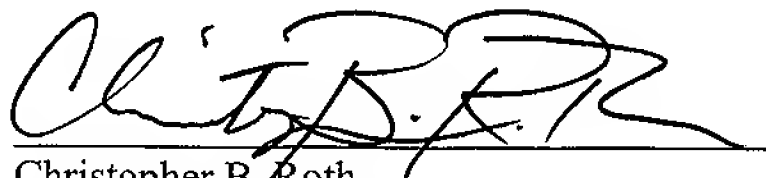
It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: December 23, 2003

By:

  
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